

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF THE GERMANTOWN DOG PARK (Off leash area at Forgey Park)

Hours of operation: Dawn to dusk, weather and conditions permitting

Park capacity: 108 dogs

Users are expected to utilize the dog park in a responsible manner at all times.

All dogs visiting the park must be registered with the City of Germantown prior to use. Violators may lose off-leash area privileges and be subject to a fine. Permits and access cards are not transferrable.

1. Each dog owner assumes all liability for damages suffered by anyone who is bitten or injured by their dog or any other dog under their care while using the park. Dog park participation is at your own risk.
2. Remove leashes only in the designated "unleashed fenced area". Dogs must be leashed while in parking lots and walkways. The leash law applies in all areas except inside the fenced in area of the park.
3. Dogs must be supervised by an adult (18 years or older) at all times.
4. No children, under the age of 18 years are permitted in the park, unless accompanied by an adult. Do not run or chase after dogs, and never attempt to pet other dogs unless permission is granted by the dog's owner.
5. No unattended dogs are permitted in the park at any time. Abandoning animals is prohibited by law. Owners must maintain visual and voice control of their dog.
6. Each owner may bring no more than two dogs into the park at any given time. This allows owners to more closely monitor dogs
7. Accompany and monitor dogs closely at all times – always have a leash available and ready for use as may be required.
8. All dog owners are required to clean-up and remove waste, even outside the off- leash area. Designated containers and bags are available. Failure to clean up after your dog will result in a fine.
9. Aggressive dogs are prohibited in the park. Reported cases may result in loss of park privileges.
10. Dogs that are in heat or are sick are prohibited.
11. All dogs must be licensed and properly vaccinated/immunized. The use of heartworm and tick prevention products is highly recommended. Proof of inoculations for Rabies, Bordetella, DHLPP and a City of Germantown or Shelby County Dog License are required
12. Puppies under six months old are not permitted in the park unless they have had adult inoculations; Rabies, Bordetella, DHLPP and a City of Germantown or Shelby County Dog License.
13. No prong (pinch), choke or spiked collars are permitted in the park. Dogs requiring this level of restriction are likely not socialized properly and should not be in an off-leash area. No dogs within the fenced in confines of the park can be on a leash.
14. Do not allow dogs to dig holes. This creates safety hazards.
15. No tobacco products, alcohol, food or glass containers are permitted in the park. Do not bring rawhide or dog food into the dog park as dog fights may result. Small, bite-sized training treats are permitted. Food in bowls and long-lasting chews are prohibited.
16. Professional dog trainers are not permitted to use this facility for training purposes without written permission from the City.
17. The City of Germantown reserves the right to refuse admission and/or to evict any person from the park grounds and assumes no liability for any accidents, injuries, loss or theft occurring on park property.

DOG PARK ETIQUETTE FOR OWNERS AND VISITORS

Owners must always watch their dog. Mischief can happen quickly. Owners are responsible for their dog's actions.

Never leave a dog unattended. Always be aware of what is going on in the Park.

Always clean up after your dog. "Pooper scooper" bags are provided. Owners who do not clean up after their pets is the primary complaint about dog parks, so pay close attention and properly pick up waste before leaving the facility.

Don't bring a female dog in heat into the Park. Spayed/neutered animals are recommended.

If your dog becomes unruly or plays too roughly, please leash him/her and leave the Park immediately, until the dog is under control and has settled down.

If you must bring children into the park, please supervise them closely. Children are not permitted to be inside the off-leash area unsupervised. Parents should consider all the risks associated with bringing small children into an off-leash area. Teach children to ask permission from the dog owner before approaching an unfamiliar dog. Many dogs have not been socialized to children. Children are easily knocked over or injured by playing dogs and are susceptible to contracting infections and parasites from touching the ground where animal waste has been located. Supervising a child and a dog at the same time is difficult and puts all park users at risk. Dogs see direct eye contact as confrontational, and children may provoke a dog unintentionally by staring.

Owners should educate themselves on dog behavior. Ask questions. Be alert for and able to anticipate and prevent unacceptable behaviors, especially dog-on-dog aggression problems. Pay careful attention to the behavioral changes that develop as your dog moves through the changes in its life, particularly once it has reached sexual maturity (typically 1 to 3 years). Research your dog's breed, including the history and original purpose of the breed so you can understand its behavior. A behavior that concerns some may simply be a rambunctious play style, but all park users reserve the right to ask other visitors to cease any activity that makes them uncomfortable. Owners must exit the area if their dog is acting in an aggressive manner.

Do not smoke or eat while in the park. Cigarette butts and food wrappers are tempting treats to visiting dogs, local wildlife and insects.

Bringing unregistered dogs to the Park is strictly prohibited and will result in a fine.

Owners who permit an unregistered dog to enter the park with their pass accept full responsibility and liability for the unregistered dog's actions. Violators of this policy may be subject to fine and risk the loss of park privileges.

A maximum of two dogs per owner are permitted in the off-leash area at one time.

HOW TO ENTER AND EXIT THE DOG PARK

The Germantown Dog Park is divided into two fenced-in areas to provide maximum safety for dogs. When entering and exiting the designated areas please remember to **close gates securely**. Open gates defeat the purpose of the security provided by the fenced-in areas. Outer gates are electronic and an access card is required for entry.

Each area is entered through the double-gated vestibules. These vestibules are designed with two gates to provide maximum control over dogs. Only one dog should be in the vestibule at a time. Opening only one gate at a time prevents dogs from escaping. Close the outer gate, remove the dog's leash and remain in the vestibule to observe the behavior of dogs already in the off-leash area. If the behavior is friendly, carefully open the inner gate and enter. If behavior is unfriendly, put the leash back on and go to the vestibule of another area.

Enter the Dog Park

- Before opening the outer gate, check to be sure that the inner gate is properly closed and that no other dogs are in the vestibule area.
- Open the outer gate with your swipe access card and enter the vestibule with the dog on-leash.
- Close the outer main gate and check that it is properly secured.
- Remove the dog's leash. Having a dog on a leash when confronting an off-leash dog can be a recipe for trouble. A leashed dog may feel vulnerable and fearful, as well as the need to protect their owner. Tugging on the leash puts a dog at a disadvantage with other dogs. It is restrained but placed in a chest-out, raised-up aggressive pose that can cause the off-leash dog to feel threatened.
- Before you open the inner gate, check to be sure that the inner gate area is not congested with dogs that may escape as you enter.
- Open the inner gate. Enter the off-leash area.
- Close the inner gate properly and move away from the entrance area.

Exit the Dog Park

- Before opening the inner gate, check to be sure that the outer gate is properly closed.
- Open the inner gate and enter the vestibule.
- Close the inner gate properly and ensure that the latch is in the downward position.
- Place a leash securely on the dog.
- Open the outer gate and exit from the vestibule.
- Close the outer gate and check that it is properly secured.